



Clothes Washer Fun Facts

Millions of older, inefficient clothes washers are costing a lot!

- Clothes washers manufactured before 1999 use more than 4 times the energy of today's ENERGY STAR® models.
- The life expectancy of a clothes washer is 11 years.
- An estimated 84.1 million households have a top-loading washer; 24 million of these are ten years old or older.¹ Combined, the inefficient appliances use \$9 billion per year in energy and water costs.²
- Your old washer could be costing you more than you think--and wasting nearly 30 gallons of water every time you do a load of laundry. Over the lifetime of the washer, you'd be wasting water equivalent to ten and a half years of daily baths!³

Working together, Americans can make a difference.

- Every step we take to become more energy efficient and lessen our impact on global climate change is a step to preserve energy resources and our environment for generations to come. Just think: if every American home replaced their old washers with ENERGY STAR qualified models, together, we would save:⁴
 - Enough water to fill the Rose Bowl nearly 8,000 times.
 - Enough energy to light nearly 6.3 million homes for an entire year.
 - More than \$5.3 billion in annual energy costs.
 - Prevent annual greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to the emissions of more than 1.5 million cars. That is more than the number of registered autos in Nevada and Colorado combined. Lined up bumper to bumper, those cars would stretch from Anchorage to New York.
- Clothes washers are about 65 percent steel, the bulk of which can be recycled. Some items, like mercury switches that may be found in some pre-1972 models, need special handling by a qualified recycler.⁵

ENERGY STAR makes it easy to save.

- Starting July 1, 2009, new ENERGY STAR clothes washers must be at least 43 percent more energy efficient than the minimum federal standard, plus they must meet stringent water efficiency criteria. This is an increase from the previous 37 percent level.
- Purchasing a new ENERGY STAR qualified clothes washer rather than a non-qualified model will save you an average of \$50 per year on your utility bills. Over the lifetime of the washer, you'll save enough money to pay for the matching dryer. Now that's a chunk of change!
- A new non-qualified clothes washer uses 18 more gallons of water with every wash than an ENERGY STAR qualified model. That wasted water is equivalent to a daily shower.⁶ Over the life of your ENERGY STAR qualified washer, you'll save enough water to fill three backyard swimming pools.



Make a
CLEAN CHANGE.
Recycle Your Old Washer.



- ENERGY STAR is a government-backed program helping individuals and businesses save energy and protect the environment through superior energy efficiency. In a consumer survey released in 2007, 73 percent of respondents said ENERGY STAR influenced their product purchase decision-making, an increase of 10 percentage points from 2006.⁷

These fun facts have been compiled from a variety of sources and are rounded for ease of use. Direct any questions to Jack Henry-Rhoads, D&R International, technical contractor to the U.S. Department of Energy at jhrhoads@drintl.com

¹ Source: Residential Energy Consumption Survey, 2005.

² Source: D&R International, 2009.

³ Assumes a pre-1999 model clothes washer and a 50 gallon bathtub, filled almost 3/4 full.

⁴ Assumes a pre-1999 model clothes washer.

⁵ AHAM: <http://www.aham.org/industry/ht/a/GetDocumentAction/i/5370>.

⁶ Based on a 2.5 gal/minute showerhead flow and a 7 minute shower.

⁷ National Awareness of ENERGY STAR for 2007, Analysis of CEE Household Survey.